

I am thankful for this opportunity to correspond with the FCC, first to thank you for your wonderful efforts taken to reduce 'nuisance calls' to those of us home and business owners who choose not to be solicited, and secondly, to request that you do not take any action to lessen or reduce the restrictions against Indiana's Telephone Privacy Law protections currently in place.

Quality of life is a commonly-used catch-phrase, but in the instance of drastically reducing 'nuisance calls'; not having to stop working, cleaning, fixing, eating, playing or whatever, and having to deal with constant interruptions of time spent with family and friends to field calls from people who cannot even pronounce my name, peddling wares and requesting survey responses for which I am not interested; yes, current legislation has allowed my family and me to enjoy a better quality of life.

At the peak of our aggravation over nuisance calls in the recent past, my family would have to deal with literally 40 calls per week! I know that pales in comparison to what some folks go thru, but when you've been able to teach your children phone etiquette by having them learn how to hang up on unwanted callers, I think we've crossed the line of acceptable amounts of intrusion on our privacy. The ability, at least in the state of Indiana, to remove one's name from shared, nuisance and solicitous call lists, has made a very noticeable difference in the amount of times we've been interrupted, delayed, annoyed, bothered and badgered by these mostly well-meaning but persistent solicitors, telemarketers and auto-dialers. Another barometer to the positive effect of our current legislation is the reduced amount of messages left on our answering machine, which at times could almost fill our entire tape, as well as the reduced number of hang-up calls, presumably from nuisance callers who would rather get the machine! We've had solicitors call back, minutes after we've previously dispatched them, because they (supposedly?) lost their place on their sheet, or we got calls from telemarketers trying to pass themselves off as our phone company, or cable service, trying to pitch their plan.

We still get calls, but now maybe only a handful, 4 or 5 per week, which is still unwanted, but easier to deal with. We still say a pleasant 'No Thank You' and hang up, but we'd much rather not have to deal with it at all. Almost all of these calls are from companies and organizations that we've never done business with or made contributions to, and to consider preempting current legislation for the state of Indiana, to align policy with a more liberal and lesser-restricted national policy, would return us to the stone ages of purported privacy and open the floodgates to this current crop of bothersome callers and incubate the seeds of prior discontent, spawning clones of any and all 3rd parties we may have ever had associations with.

For my family's sake, please do not vote to preempt Indiana's Telephone Privacy Protection Law in order to align it with some broad-based national standard. We enjoy the privacy that we've struggled to achieve, and would not want to see those efforts undone by adopting lesser restrictions. Thank you for the time and the forum in which to express my family's view on the matter.

John M Kowalski